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K E M P S T O N U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L.

R E P O R T

upon the Sanitary Condition and Public Health

of the

URBAN DISTRICT OF KEMPSTON

for the Year

1 9 2 5

Presented to the Council 25th May 1926.

To
The Chairman and Members of the
Kempston Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you my report for the year 1925. This takes the form of a Survey Report, the period under review being the past five years.

The area of the District is 1255 acres. The population (census 1921) was 5219. It is now estimated at 5129. The number of inhabited houses (1921) was 1122 and the number of families or separate occupiers (1921) was 1152. The rateable value is £15774 and a penny rate produces the sum of £56.

The Kempston Urban District occupies a position somewhat to the South-West of Bedford. For all practical purposes it might be considered as a suburb of the town of Bedford. Geologically the greater portion of the district is upon the Ouse gravel, the River Ouse itself forming the northern boundary. Part of Kempston stands however on Oxford clay. The level of Kempston is slightly higher than that of Bedford.

The population consists largely of working-class people. A good deal of laundry work is done in the homes. A good number of men are employed at Messrs. Howards' & Messrs. Allens' Engineering Works in Bedford. The Meltis Chocolate Works, Bedford employ a considerable number of the girls. A number of girls also are employed at the Igranic Electric Works in Bedford. The local works comprise, a shoe factory, Leather works, Electric Lamp Works, Cosmic Crayon Works, Crossley Engineering Works and Tin works. A considerable number of men are also employed at Brick Works situated about two miles from the district. There is no Hospital or other form of gratuitous Medical relief in the district. The Bedford County Hospital is utilized to a considerable extent.

VITAL STATISTICS:-

The Births were Males Legitimate 38

Females Legitimate 44, Illegitimate 2

A total of 84 Births equal to a rate of 15.4 per 1000. For 1924 the rate was 17.9 per 1000. For England and Wales the rate was 18.3. The rates for the past five years were:-

1921	20.3	per 1000
1922	18.8	" "
1923	17.0	" "
1924	17.9	" "
1925	15.4	" "

THE DEATHS registered for the year were Males, 27, Females 25 A total of 52 equal to a death rate of 10.1 per 1000.

For 1924 the rate was 10.4 per 1000. For England and Wales the rate was 12.2

The rates for the past five years were:-

1921	9.0	per 1000
1922	12.3	" "
1923	12.0	" "
1924	10.4	" "
1925	10.1	" "

There were two deaths from Puerperal Sepsis, both of which occurred outside the district.

These are the only deaths from Puerperal Sepsis, or other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition, which I have had to report during the past five years, with the exception of one death from nephritis following child birth in 1922.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under one year per 1000 births.

Legitimate 6: equal to a proportion of 71 per 1000 births.

For 1924 the rate was 63 per 1000 births. For England and Wales the rate was 75. The rates for the past five years were:-

1921	46	per	1000	births
1922	50	"	"	"
1923	89	"	"	"
1924	63	"	"	"
1925	71	"	"	"

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE:- .39 per 1000. For 1924 the rate was .19 per 1000. During the five years under review there have only been two deaths from diarrhoea (under two years.) These deaths occurred in 1923.

DEATH RATE FROM PHTHISIS:- .58 per 1000. For 1924 the rate was .5 per 1000.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria.	11	11	1 (2 months)
Scarlet Fever.	27	27	-
Pneumonia	5	-	-
Erysipilas	2	-	-

AGE GROUPS

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia.
1 - 2 years	1	-	-
3 - 4 "	-	1	-
4 - 5 "	2	2	-
5 -10 "	17	6	-
10 -15 "	2	-	2
15 -20 "	4	1	1
20 -35 "	1	1	1
35 -45 "	-	-	1
	27	11	5

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
15 - 20	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
20 - 25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	5	4	-	-	1	1	-	-

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year, neither has there been a case notified during the past five years. All the deaths from Tuberculosis has been duly notified. The notification of Tuberculosis in the district is quite efficient. The following table shows the number of cases of Tuberculosis, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Pneumonia notified during the past five years.

	Tuberculosis.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia.
1921	11	26	4	2
1922	10	18	Nil	12
1923	8	2	2	4
1924	12	4	18	2
1925	9	27	11	5

During the past year of the 27 cases of Scarlet Fever notified 17 were of children between the ages of 5 and 10 years. The class in the Infants' School was chiefly affected. Frequent inspections of this class failed to detect any child in an infectious state. The disease was of a very mild character and no doubt there were some cases not recognised. In my experience Scarlet Fever is becoming year by year more difficult of recognition. Return cases in the district are rare. Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the Council. Pathological specimens are sent to the Clinical Research Association and arrangements

are in force for the removal of patients to the Bedford Rural District Isolation Hospital at Oakley Hill. Disinfection is carried out by means of Formic Aldehyde and disinfectants are supplied.

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively, or of any artificial methods of immunization against these diseases.

A considerable number of primary vaccinations and re-vaccinations were done, privately, during the summer. This was due to the occurrence of a few cases of Small-pox in Bedford.

There was one death from Influenza during the year, for the previous year the number was also one. The disease is still fairly prevalent, but is of a much milder character.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The Council have an agreement with the Bedford Rural District Council for the use of their Isolation Hospital at Oakley Hill. They also have the use of their Small-pox Hospital, as well as their Motor Ambulance for the removal of Infectious cases.

Beyond a hand litter, there is no other Ambulance appliance in the District.

An Infant Welfare Centre is conducted by the County Council under the supervision of Dr. Welch.

There is one nurse in the District who acts under the Beds. County Nursing Association. She also acts as a midwife.

The Beds. Nursing Association receives a grant in aid from the County Council.

There is one other Midwife practising in the District who receives no subsidy.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS consist of one Medical Officer (part time) and one Sanitary Inspector (part time) who also acts as Surveyor. Half the Salary of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector is received from the County Council.

BYELAWS are in force with respect to the cleansing of frontings and pavements, nuisances, slaughter houses, offensive trades together with regulations in regard to Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops. Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the Public Health Act (Amendment Act) 1890 were adopted by the Council on the 30th November 1896. Building Bye-laws are also in force. The erection of new buildings is supervised by the Surveyor.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER:-

By agreement with the Biggleswade Water Board the water is obtained from the Greensand. With very few exceptions it is supplied directly to the dwellinghouses. The supply is constant and is in every respect highly satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:-

With few exceptions the houses are connected with the sewers. The filter beds at the outfall works have recently been renewed and the old sprinklers have been replaced by the revolving circular type of sprinkler. The effluent is quite satisfactory.

SCAVENGING:-

The dust bins are emptied once weekly.

SCHOOLS:-

The Sanitary condition and water supply of the schools are quite satisfactory. Frequent inspections have been made on account of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever. The Infant School has been disinfected on two occasions.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY is derived from local cowkeepers.

The Dairies and cowsheds have been duly inspected and have been found to be in a satisfactory condition.

THE SLAUGHTER HOUSES have also been found to be in good order.

NUMBER OF PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

	1920.	January 1925.	December 1925.
Registered	1	1	1
Licensed	4	4	4
Total	5	5	5

HOUSING.

There is still a certain amount of overcrowding in the district due mainly to two and sometimes three families living in the same house. Two houses have been built during the year and one is in course of erection. Application has been made to the Ministry of Health to grant subsidies for the erection of thirteen houses.

The general standard of housing in the district is good.

The general character of the defects found to exist were

Want of internal cleansing.

Want of ventilation.

Defective spouting.

Deficiency of Light.

Defective roofs.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a) 2 new houses were erected during the year and 1 is in course of erection.

(b) As part of a Municipal housing scheme:- Nil.

1. Unfit dwellinghouses.

Inspection - (1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for

housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 1

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 98

(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 39

(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 59

2. Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notices:

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action of the Local Authority or their Officers. 1

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning &c. Act 1919.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. 1

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit:-

(a) by owners 1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners. Nil

(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied:-

(a) by owners Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners Nil

C. Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning &c. Act 1909

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	Nil.
(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwellinghouses having been rendered fit	Nil.
(4) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	Nil
(5) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	Nil.

I have the honour to be

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) GEO. BUTTERS, M.B., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

May 25th 1926.

Urban Council Offices,

Kempston.

May 1926.

To
The Chairman and Members of the
Kempston Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

As Sanitary Inspector to your Authority I have the honour to present for your information the following yearly report:-

Returns of nuisances and other matters

dealt with during the year 1925.

Internal cleansing of houses and repairs	1
Defective water cisterns	23
Do. burst pipes	7
Do. taps	16
Washers fitted to taps	304
Number of premises connected to the Council's water supply	3
Notifications received from M.O.H.	38
Disinfectants supplied	37
Rooms disinfected	40
Schools disinfected	2
Disinfection after phthisis	1
do. after cancer	1
Dairies and cow sheds inspected	15
Whitewashing executed after notice	2
Bakehouses inspected	9
Whitewashing executed after notice	1
Registered Slaughterhouses	5

Whitewashing executed after notice	1
Factories inspected	13
Workshops inspected	2
Workplaces inspected	7
Number of houses built during the year	2
Number in course of erection	1
Defective drains	2
Accumulation of Manure	2
Cleansing of Pigstyes	1

The Scavengers have during the year emptied 2,392 pails, 54,680 dustboxes, 7 ashpits, 15 cesspools, making a total of 1,277 loads.

The Council employ permanently 10 men for scavenging, Highways and Sewage disposal, and have two horses.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) E.H.C. INSKIP.